

John M. Hooper House (Tract #5215)  
South side of road from Corbin, 1.4 miles  
northwest of Corbin  
Osceola Vicinity  
St. Clair County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1243

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1243

JOHN M. HOOPER HOUSE  
(Tract #5215)

Location: South side of road that runs north of Corbin, then east at Osage River, 1.4 miles northwest of Corbin, Osceola Vicinity, St. Clair County, Missouri.

USCS Iconium Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.446690.4214970.

Present Owner: United States Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: The John M. Hooper house is a one-and-a-half story L-shaped saddlebag, covered by a broad gable roof to make a square plan. Built at the turn of the century, it is remarkable for its interior moldings and the shingle work and sawn decoration on its exterior.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1880-1900. Hooper bought the land in 1880 for \$400; three subsequent deeds of trust in 1883 (D:463), 1889 (K:283), and 1894 (P:568) total \$645. The drop siding indicates a date in the late nineteenth century, as does the sawn decoration and shingle work on the exterior and the carved moldings with bull's-eye corner blocks on the interior. The door hardware is consistent throughout the house, being mortise locks with elaborately chased escutcheons dating perhaps from 1890-1920. The house is definitely indicated on the 1903 County Plat.
2. Original and subsequent owners: E 1/2 SW 1/4 Section 6 Township 38 N Range 24 S. Alonzo Fairman to John M. Hopper, July 30, 1880 (10:626); Jesse C. Hooper to Elmer Glen Clover, February 18, 1977 (217:432).
3. Original plan and construction: Originally a one-and-a-half story saddlebag with a rear ell and porch, this house is unusual in the survey area for the construction of the roof; rather

than having their own gable roof perpendicular to the main roof, the ell and back porch, as well as the front porch, are included under the main gable roof.

6. Alterations and additions: The porch in the southeast corner was enclosed to form a room.

B. Sources of Information:

Deed books D:463, K:283, P:568 10:626; 1903 County Plat in the Registry of Deeds, Saint Clair County Courthouse, Osceola.

Prepared by Paul Garfield Weed  
Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1977

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an unusual example of a one-and-a-half story saddlebag type of house. The broad gable roof covers an almost square plan encompassing the one-and-a-half story core of the house, two rooms at the rear, and the porch across the front. The corner blocks on the door surrounds, elaborately carved moldings on the baseboards, and shingles in one gable are unusual decorative features for buildings in the inventory.
2. Condition of fabric: The house has been vacant for many years and is full of hay and wasps.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one-and-a-half story house has a four-bay front, 32'-4" wide, by 27' deep, with an 8' deep porch.
2. Foundation: Stone foundation.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls are balloon frame stud construction sheathed in drop siding or shiplap siding with a routed upper edge. The central one-and-a-half story portion of the west elevation was re-sheathed at some point with narrower

drop siding at the lower level, and wood shingles at the upper level. Vertical corner boards on this side of the house terminate this new layer of sheathing. Vertical boards on the east and south sides of the house indicate that the southeast room was an addition.

4. Structural system, framing: Balloon framing.
5. Porches: Across the front of the house is a concrete-floored porch recessed under the gable roof of the house. Five chamfered posts support the front edge of the roof.
6. Chimney: The centrally located brick stove chimney serves the two front rooms on each floor.
7. Openings: The door and window surrounds are topped with a saw-tooth decoration in the lintels. No doors or windows remain. Two screen doors in the front porch have turned spindle and quarter circle decorative motifs.
8. Roof: The gable roof is covered in wood shingles.

C. Description of Interior:

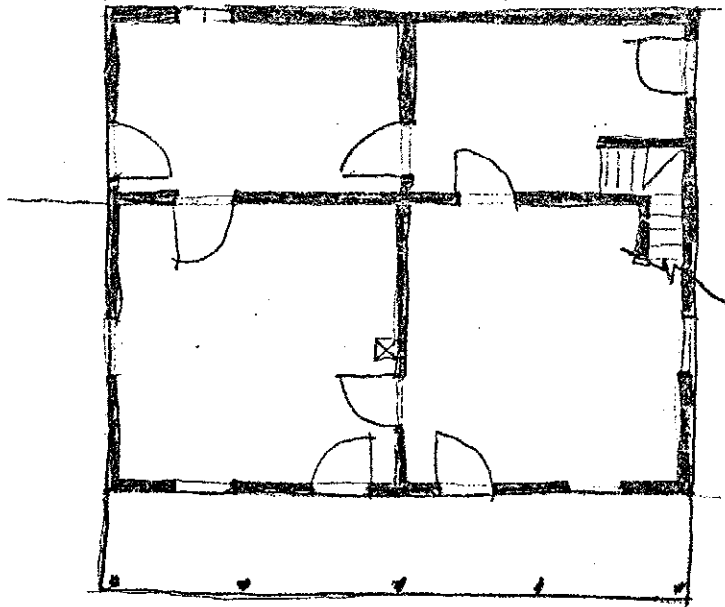
1. Floor Plans:
  - a. The first floor is comprised of four rooms in an almost square plan. Each of the two front rooms, which share a chimney, has its own front door. The two rear rooms are smaller in size.
  - b. The second floor is comprised of two rooms above the two front rooms.
2. Stairway: The stairway, enclosed by walls on both sides, starts in the southwest room with two risers leading to a landing with a diagonal winder. The stair turns, following the exterior wall of the house, arriving in the southwest corner of the western upstairs room.
3. Flooring: 3 1/2" wide wood flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster on wood lath.
5. Doors: The door and window frames have deeply carved moldings with bull's-eye corner blocks in the two upper corners of the frame.

6. Decorative features and trim: The 6" high baseboard in all the rooms has deeply carved moldings similar to the door and window frames.

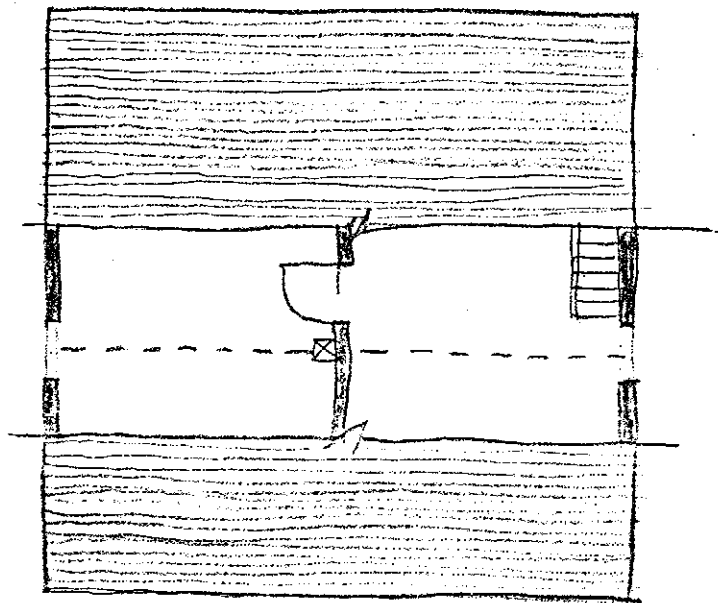
D. Site:

1. General setting: The house faces north in a shallow front yard. Behind the house is a field.
2. Outbuildings:
  - a. The concrete root cellar directly behind the house is 12' wide, 15' deep, and 5'-6" high. The cellar is partially submerged with a shallow concrete vault running perpendicular to the front of the cellar. The walls are faced with stone.
  - b. The three-bay barn just west of the house is 36' long x 19' wide. It has a concrete foundation with heavy timber framing and board and batten siding. The gable roof with shed along the west side of the barn is covered in corrugated sheet metal.
  - c. The three-aisle barn at the end of the field behind the house has a gable roof covered in corrugated sheet metal, with a boxed rain hood on the eastern end. The upper story is a hay loft. The north elevation has small square windows. The south aisle is an open shed for feed troughs.

Prepared by William Brookover  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1977



FIRST FLOOR PLAN # 5215



SECOND FLOOR PLAN #5215

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Truman Reservoir Project was funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the construction of the Harry S Truman Dam and Reservoir, in the summer of 1977. William Brookover (Columbia University), supervisor; Michael Connor (University of Virginia), team foreman; Gary Baker (Catholic University), Edwin Daniel (Mississippi State), and Gary Statkus (University of Illinois), student architects; Paul Weed (Columbia University), architectural historian.